

Spokane River Stewardship Partners

Accommodating growth and needs since the early 1900s...

>> **Washington Water Power's** Monroe Street Dam began generating power in 1890, advancing the town of Spokane Falls from candles and oil lamps to incandescent lighting. Between 1908 and 1925, WWP added four additional hydroelectric developments along the Spokane River to accommodate power needs.

>> In the late 1890's, the **City of Spokane** built its first sewer system to address rapid growth. The Riverside wastewater treatment plant was constructed in the 1950's. By 1977, major plant expansions and upgrades were completed that provided seasonal removal of phosphorus. The use of phosphates in laundry detergent was banned in the 1980's.

>> **Spokane County** began constructing sewer lines for septic tank elimination over the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in 1975. In the 1980's, the County secured capacity at the City's Riverside treatment plant, and voters approved 20 years of funding to eliminate septic tanks in the Spokane Valley.

>> **City of Coeur d'Alene** constructed its first wastewater treatment plant in 1939. By the late 1970's the treatment plant reached capacity, resulting in a building moratorium. Phosphorus removal upgrades were implemented in 1991. Its new plant with advanced secondary treatment was completed in 1995.

>> **City of Post Falls** wastewater treatment plant was completed in 1985 which eliminated use of septic tanks by 7000 people. In 1992, treatment plant upgrades reduced phosphorus discharge year-round.

>> In 1971, the **Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District** was formed to restore water quality in Liberty Lake. In the late 1970's a sewer collection system was constructed to eliminate septic systems. In 1982, the new wastewater treatment facility was completed which significantly increased phosphorus removal.

>> **Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board** built their first wastewater treatment plant in 1986. In 1993, they purchased land for reclaimed water irrigation. Their treatment plant was upgraded to accommodate growth in 2008.

>> In 1911, **Inland Empire Paper Company** began producing paper in Millwood. Over time, significant wastewater treatment upgrades were completed. In the early 1990's, paper recycling and energy recovery systems were installed.



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Continuing to work every day for a healthy river...

>> **Spokane County** began construction of a state-of-the-art water reclamation facility in 2009 that will treat wastewater to ultra clean levels, at a cost of over \$140 million. Elimination of approximately 35,000 septic tanks in the Spokane Valley will be completed in 2011. The County is also leading a regional study to reduce nonpoint sources of phosphorus into the Spokane River.

>> The **City of Spokane** has increased its focus toward water reclamation and further phosphorus reduction. Their current study will identify the best treatment technology for removing phosphorus from wastewater, which will be installed around 2015. The city is also constructing facilities to reduce combined sewer overflows to the Spokane River.

>> The **City of Coeur d'Alene** adopted a new wastewater facility plan in 2009 and is completing significant upgrades to their treatment plant that includes additional phosphorus and ammonia reduction. This expansion is estimated to cost \$72 million.

>> In 2009, the **City of Post Falls** began construction of its treatment plant expansion which will add biological nitrogen and phosphorus reduction for sustainable, year-round improvements to the Spokane River.

>> **Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District** recently spent \$12 million upgrading its treatment plant to remove 80% more phosphorus. The new treatment process uses year-round biological nutrient removal for both nitrogen and phosphorus reduction.

>> **Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board** does not discharge effluent to the Spokane River during the growing season; they use all the treated effluent on their water reuse farm to grow livestock feed and poplar trees.

>> **Inland Empire Paper Company** has invested over \$9 million in innovative wastewater treatment upgrades since 2004 that improve oxygen delivery capacity, remove more phosphorus and reclaim wastewater for beneficial reuse.

>> **Avista** received a new 50-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate its five hydroelectric facilities on the Spokane River in 2009. As part of this license, Avista will implement water quality improvements in the Spokane River and Lake Spokane.



Photo By Bruce Andre (www.bruceandre.com)